

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2791

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAS, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: DOMINICAN INSCRIPTION OF TERRORISM ON OASGA AGENDA

FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 2721

1. IN TWO CONVERSATIONS DURING LAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, FONSEC JIMENEZ DESCRIBED TO ME GODR POSITION REGARDING TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ALSO PROVIDED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE TEXT OF RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT HE PLANS TO INTRODUCE AT GRENADA MEETING (SEPTTEL. HE SAID THAT NO OTHER GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PROVIDED THIS TEXT. JIMENEZ CONTINUED THAT PROPOSED RESOLUTION COULD BE AMENDED IF SUCH WERE THE DESIRE OF THE ASSEMBLY. (THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPEARS INTENDED TO BE AS ANODYNE EA POSSIBLE.)

2. JIMENEZ ELABORATED THAT DESPITE RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING TERRORISM INTRODUCED IN A VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL FORA, TERRORIST ACTIONS CONTINUE UNABATED. THE MURDER OF FONSEC BORGONOVA OF EL SALVADOR AND THE ATTEMPT UPON THE LIFE OF THE ARGENTINIAN FONSEC WERE ESPECIALLY GRIEVOUS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT UNMINDFUL OF CONTINUING TERRORIST ACTS OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE. IN THE DOMINICAN VIEW SUCH CONTEMPTIBLE ACTS SHOULD BE CONDEMNED AS VIOLATIONS OF A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT:
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"THE INVIOABILITY OF PERSON." JIMENEZ CONTUNED THAT THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT UNLESS HE WERE CAREFUL, HIS PROPOSED RESOLUTION COULD LEAD TO HEATED POLEMICAL DEBATE AT THE GRENADA MEETING WHICH HE HOPED TO AVOID. THEREFORE, IN HIS REMARKS INTRODUCING THE RESOLUTION HE INTENDED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE DOMINICAN

POSITION WAS THAT OF CONDEMNING TERRORIST ACTS EMANATING FROM ANY QUARTER: FROM GOVERNMENTS, FROM OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, OR FROM ANY OTHER POLITICALLY MOTIVATED GROUP WHETHER RIGHTIST, LEFTIST OR ANY SHADING IN BETWEEN. IN THIS MANNER HE HOPED TO OBTAIN BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION AND SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT THE USG WOULD FIND AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE DOMINICAN POSTURE.

3. COMMENT: SEVERAL MOTIVES PROBABLY UNDERLIE THIS DOMINICAN INITIATIVE. THE GODR IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO THE TRENDS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND DESIROUS OF KEEPING IN STEP WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IT IS ALSO MINDFUL OF THE VESTIGES OF THE IMAGE OF TRUJILLO BRUTALITY AND VENALITY THAT LINGER IN THE MINDS OF MANY IN THE HEMISPHERE. BY CONDEMNING TERRORISM AS A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE GODR SEEKS TO MANIFEST ITS SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY AND AT THE SAME TIME BURNISH ITS NEW IMAGE AS A MODERATE, CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT WHERE HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ARE GENERALLY RESPECTED. FINALLY, THERE MAY BE THE DESIRE TO BRING "BALANCE" INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS PICTURE BY HIGHLIGHTING THE RECENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT TERRORIST ACTS IN EL SALVADOR AND ARGENTINA, THEREBY MITIGATING CRITICISM OF THE HARSH ACTIONS OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS, AND BY IMPLICATION THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHILE AND URUGUAY AS WELL.
HURWITCH

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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